Restricted Items:

(Export Permitted Under Licence)

(i) Vegetable oils in consumer packs above 5 kgs., namely:-

Coconut oil; cotton seed oil; corn oil; kardi oil; linseed oil; mustard oil; niger seed oil; palm oil; palm kernel oil; rape seed oil; rice bran oil; salad oil; sunflower oil; sesame seed oil; soyabean oil.

(ii) Groundnut Oil.

[English]

Agreement for Procurement & Processing of Rice by MMTC

5450. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. had entered nto an agreement for porcurement of Basmati rice and process it;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements thereof;

(c) whether MMTC has suffered a loss of about four crores in this transaction;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government had instituted any enquiry into this deal and fixed up any responsibility on the officers who signed that agreements; and

(f) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLA RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MMTC entered into an agreement with M/s. K J International for procurement of paddy for Basmati rice and processing it into finished rice for export. A quantity of 3784.45 MT valued at Rs. 3.97 crores was procured. They were required to give 1740.85 MT 'A' grade superior Basmati rice. Out of this they gave 273 Mt of 'A' Grade rice which was sold locally for Rs. 53 lakh. They also informed that they have exported 1000 MT 'A' Grade rice valued at Rs. 1.95 crores to Saudi Arabia.

(c) and (d) The matter has been referred to Arbitration. The quantum of loss, if any, would be known only after the Arbitration proceedings are completed.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. An inquiry has been instituted and investigations into the transaction are under process.

Winding up of MSTC

5451. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has issued notice, to wind up Maharashtra State Textile Corporation (MSTC);

(b) the reasons for winding up these mills;

(c) if so, whether the Government have agreed to the above proposal of the BIFR; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) Having considered all the relevant facts and circumstances of the case, the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), is of the prima facie opinion that it is just and equitable that the Maharashtra State Textile Corporation Ltd (MSTC) should be wound up. Accordingly, the BIFR has issued notice to MSTC and all concerned to make their suggestions/objections, if any.

Finance for Voluntary Retirement Schemes

5452. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has allowed some all India lending institutions to finance Voluntary Retirement Schemes in cotton mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions agreed upon with these financial institutions for financing Voluntary Retirement Schemes in cotton mills;

(d) whether these cottion mills also include National Textile Corporation mills;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions in Nov. 96 to term lending institutions namely, IDBI, ICICI, IFCI, IRBI and SCICI to the effect that the Financial Institutions may while determining the quantum of financial assistance for modernisation plan of cotton mills, take into account the outgo on account of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and gratuity. However, Financial Institutions should be satisfied about the viability of the proposed modernisation plan and they should also ensure enduse of the funds. Voluntary Retirement Scheme and gratuity outside the modernisation plan will not come under the purview of these instructions.

(d) to (f) In the case NTC, VRS has been funded out of National Renewal Fund.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Textile Workers

5453. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of the workers of the closed textile mills in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the present Government's "textile

policy" and the measures and mode adopted for its implementation to facilitate the streamline functioning of the textiles industries?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government have, inter alia, taken the following measures for the rehabilitation of sick textile mills and workers of closed mills in the country:-

— Setting up of Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due permanent/partial closure of a textile mill;

— Setting up of a Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as approriate, schemes for revival of sick mills.

[English]

Silk Projects

5454. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the authorities responsible for implementing the Silk Projects in States;

(b) the number of Silk Projects implemented during the last three years;

(c) the States where these Projects have been completed during the same period; and

(d) the total number of district level Committees set up for the purpose so far in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The projects/programmes for the development of sericulture are primarily formulated and implemented by the State Sericulture Departments. However, in case of projects undertaken by the Central Silk Board (CSB) with the concerned State(s), the authorities responsible for implementing such projects is the Central Silk Board alone if the project is fully funded by the CSB and if the project is jointly funded by the State with the CSB, implementation is jointly by the CSB and the concerned State.

(b) and (c) Apart form various schemes, the silk projects implemented by the CSB in collaboration with the States during the last 3 years have been the National Sericulture Project in five traditional States and 12 non-traditional States, the Poorvanchal Sericulture Development Project in Uttar Pradesh, the North-Eastern Action Plan and the Muga Seed Development Project in the North-Eastern states. Of these projects, the National Sericulture Project has ended on 31.12.96.

(d) Besides the District Level Committees set up by certain States like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, there is also a Committee to review the progress of schemes implemented through the DRDA fund for each District Rural Development Agency.

[Translation]

Top Exporters

5455. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of exporters or Export Houses which have exported garments, textiles, cotton and synthetic yarn to the European countries during each of the last three years and the places from where these exports were made with the value thereof;

(b) the detials of twenty top exporters indicating their names, addresses and business turnover;

(c) whether some inquiries have been initiated against some exporters in the European countries;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to discuss this issue with the Governments of European countries and seek their intervention keeping in view of the interests of exporters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The data on exports are not compiled according to exporters/export houses.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Coffee Processing Unit in U.P.

5456. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a coffee processing unit in Uttar Pradesh by the Coffee Board; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Banned Items/Biodiversity Plants

5457. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYYA:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding theft of India's biodiversity/medicinal plants from various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued instructions during 1994 to ban export of 46 plants;